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1608

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SCAPULAR X
OF
THE MOST SACRED PASSION
OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST:

WITH RULES EXPLANATORY FOR OBTAINING THE
INDULGENCES

As granted by His present Holiness

POPE PIUS IX.

DUBLIN:
JAMES DUFFY, 10, WELLINGTON-QUAY.
1848.

1608/4179.



On the 21st March, 1848, was conceded to the Father General of the Mission, the special privilege of investing the faithful (delegating the same faculty to all Priests, whether regular or secular,) in the Red Scapular of the Passion of the most Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the most loving and dolorous Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary ever Immaculate.

[Ex Audientia Sanctissimi,
Die 21 Martii, 1848.]

SCAPULAR

OF

THE MOST SACRED



PASSION OF OUR

LORD JESUS CHRIST.

IN the evening of the 26th July, 1846, the Octave of the Festival of Saint Vincent of Paul, one of the Sisters of Charity belonging to St. Vincent's community, being in the chapel, saw, as it were, distinctly before her, our divine Saviour, holding in his right hand a Scarlet Scapular, suspended by two worsted strings of the same colour. On the one side of the Scapular our Lord was represented fastened to the Cross—the painful instruments of his passion, the scourge used at his flagellation, the hammer, the spear as well as the vessel of vinegar and gall, were seen beneath the Cross. The tunic or garment that covered his sacred body, appeared all crimsoned with his blood. Around the crucifix were written, "*Sacred passion of our Saviour Jesus Christ save us!*" At the other end of the strings (of the same quality) was distinctly to be seen the image of

his Sacred Heart and that of his Blessed Mother; a cross, placed in the centre, seemed to issue forth from the two hearts, while around the Scapular these words were inscribed: "*Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary protect us!*" Mentioning the circumstance to the Superior General of the Mission, the same religious woman, whom our Lord has favoured with peculiar devotion to his sacred passion, added, that she felt impressed our Blessed Saviour had made known to her the ardent desire he felt to see this devotion of the New Scapular adopted and propagated, in order to remind us of his sacred passion, and his infinite love towards mankind.

The apparition of our Saviour, holding in his hand the Scapular of his passion, was renewed several times. It was seen again on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 1846, with this particular circumstance, that the sister heard our Lord utter these consoling words, "*All they who wear this Scapular shall receive every Friday a great increase of Faith, Hope and Charity.*"

The Superior General did not, in the first instance, attach any importance to these communications. He resolved, however, being at Rome in the month of June, 1847, to communicate with the Vicar of Jesus Christ on the subject. To his great astonishment, no objection was made to the devotion being adopted; on the contrary, Pope Pius IX. the Sovereign Pontiff, expressed how happy he would be to encourage this new devotion. Accordingly his Holiness issued his rescript, dated 25th June, 1847, authorising all the Priests of the Congregation of the Mission, to bless and distribute the Scapular of the Sacred Passion. In the aforesaid rescript, the Pope grants to all the faithful, who shall wear the Scapular of the Passion, an indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines, every Friday, by going to holy communion, and reciting five Paters and five Aves and Glorias, in honour of the Sacred Passion. An indulgence of three years and as many quarantines, may be obtained, by meditating half

an hour on the Passion. Moreover, an indulgence of two hundred days is granted, for kissing, with compunction, the Red Scapular, and saying, at the same time, this ejaculation, "*We beseech thee, therefore, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.*"

Another rescript, dated 21st March, 1848, grants also a plenary indulgence, every Friday, to those members of the Sacred Passion, who, having confessed and communicated, shall meditate devoutly, some time, on our Saviour's Passion, and pray for peace and concord among Christian states, the extirpation of heresy, and for the exaltation of our holy mother, the Church.

The Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission has received the faculties of granting to all Priests, whether *secular* or *regular*, permission to bless and confer on the faithful the said Scapular. That especial blessings are reserved to the devout wearer of this New Scapular is a fact that may be readily believed. Devotion to the Passion, love of Jesus and participation in his sufferings, after the model of the immaculate heart of Mary, mother of love and sorrow, appear the first and particular fruits to be gathered from this tree of Calvary, this new means of sanctification. And this is strikingly expressed by the colour, and by the imprint on the Scapular. The material is composed of red cloth, to recall to mind the effusion of our divine Redeemer's precious blood, and the ineffable love that prompted the infinite sacrifice of Mount Calvary.

One part of the Scapular represents Jesus being crucified on the cross, surrounded by the instruments of his passion, to indicate, that, by virtue of his sufferings and death, man, stricken dead by mortal sin, is upraised to supernatural life; and that it was, by submitting to the crucifixion of the gibbet, his powerful hand broke our chains asunder, closed the gates of hell and opened those of Heaven. On the corresponding part of the Scapular, the Divine Heart is repre-

sented, all enveloped in flames, indicative of the ardent love of Jesus towards immortal souls. Infinite love it was that affixed him to the cross. From the wood of redemption he appeals to soften our insensible hearts, and to constrain us to return him love for love. He would have us wear about our person, the emblem of his tenderness, that this sacred image, placed on our breast, may serve as a mysterious seal to animate our fervour, and excite in us a longing desire after all good works. He displays before us the different instruments of his passion, that we may meditate on his sufferings, and thus, by daily remembrance of his sacred passion, learn to esteem his admirable doctrine, to love his divine maxims, to be persuaded the disciple should not be better treated than his master; and, finally, that if we would have part with Jesus glorified, we must share in the sufferings of Jesus crucified.

The cross is the path-way to heaven, the lamp that illuminates, the key that opens the celestial door, and the holy seal distinguishing the elect of Jesus.

But we cannot attach ourselves to this tree of life, nor gather its delicious fruits of salvation, until the ineffable charity, that inflames the heart of our Divine Master, come and enkindle our own. Never shall we know how to suffer, if we know not how to love. Teaching us this sublime lesson, Jesus Christ exhibits to us, at the same time, the model of most generous love, in the transpierced heart of his Blessed Mother, which we see placed beside his own.

In the image of the little cross, between these two hearts, as if belonging one to the other, the same charity unites, the same sacrifice immolates them, and hence, renders their union indissoluble.

Mary alone loved Jesus more than all creatures combined together.

Most bitterly, therefore, did she suffer the anguish of his passion and the agony of his death.

But by this participation in the dolours of Jesus, Mary co-

operated with the divine sufferer in the salvation of the human race. At the foot of the cross it was she became the channel of divine mercy, the mother of Christians, the refuge of sinners and the universal mediatrix of mankind. If, then, we would really love our blessed Redeemer, let us go in pursuit of this love to the glowing heart of his august Mother. If we desire to suffer with Christ crucified, let us hasten forward, and gather strength from the contemplation of Mary's generosity and heroism, beneath the cross of Calvary. Invested with the Red Scapular of the Sacred Passion, be it our study and delight to be clad interiorly with this crucified God; or, in other words, let us endeavour to cherish in our memory, the salutary recollection of his agony and death; let us tread the path traced out for us by his precious blood; let us renounce, for love of him, all our evil inclinations and grovelling propensities: come, "*let us ascend the mountain of the Lord, and die with him.*" To ensure our fidelity, let us, Members of the most Sacred Passion, unite ourselves to Mary, the mother of sorrows, and queen of martyrs. Accompanying her, with Jesus, to Calvary, let us enter into the sentiments of her holy heart, that her example may attract, her generosity animate, her love inflame and her powerful protection conspire to conduct, after life's weary pilgrimage, to the happy haven of eternal rest. Amen.

Holy Mary, imprint deeply on our hearts the wounds of Jesus crucified!

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

"If thou desire, O man! to advance from virtue to virtue; from grace to grace, meditate daily on the passion of our Lord—nothing produces such universal satisfaction in the soul as meditation on the passion of Christ."—

St. Bonaventure.

"Write, O Lord, thy wounds in my heart, that in them I may read thy sorrow and thy love: thy sorrow, that I may support, for thy sake, all sorrow; thy love, that I may despise, for thy sake, every other love."—

St. Augustine.

RULES

FOR THE

MEMBERS OF THE MOST SACRED PASSION.

Every member of the Red Scapular of the most Sacred Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ is required:—

- I. To have his name enregistered in the Confraternity Book.
- II. To wear the Red Scapular constantly, which may be changed for another of the same material and form, at his own will or pleasure.
- III. Each member to attend regularly his or her holy duties.
- IV. To meditate or think, a few minutes occasionally, on our blessed Saviour's sacred passion and death.

A. M. D. G.

M. B. KELLY, P. P.

St. Audeon's Church,
Feast of the Assumption, 1848.



[Entered at Stationers'-Hall.]

